



GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1973



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

(a) Medical Officer of Health

KATHLEEN M. HARDING,  
M.D., D.P.H., M.F.C.M., A.K.C.

(b) Chief Public Health Inspector

E.A. MORGAN,  
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

(c) Senior Additional Public Health Inspector

J.T. GREEN,  
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

(d) District Public Health Inspector

Mrs S.G. Maxwell,  
B.Sc. (Hons), M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.  
(Commenced duty September 17th, 1973)

(e) Meat Inspectors

R.S. LINLEY  
S. MORRISON  
D.J. GOULDBY  
M.T.G. WARWICK (Commenced duty July 1st, 1973 - part time  
with Thedwastre Rural District Council)

(f) Clerk

MRS. M. RIVERS



GIFFING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR 1973

TO: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the last Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for this Rural District.

It is not a complete record because vital statistics relating to Births, Deaths, and details of causes of death will not be available until some time after this Council ceases to exist on 31st March, 1974. However, it has been possible to compile other details, usually given in my Annual Report, from our local records.

During the twenty years that I have served as medical officer of health to this authority, many changes have taken place in the field of Public Health.

A pure and wholesome mains supply of water is now available for the majority of households. People no longer have to drink from polluted shallow wells or even ponds (as some did only a few years ago). Of course the water supplied through our mains is hard compared with the water obtained from shallow wells and some housewives have found this a disadvantage on wash day. Some of our mains supplies contain a considerable amount of iron salts in suspension which causes discolouration both of the water and of articles washed in it. However, it should be possible in the not too distant future to treat the water in order to remove the iron, where this is causing trouble, and we are now assured by the best medical authority that people who live in hard water areas are far less prone to certain diseases than those living in places where the water is soft.

Once a village has been supplied with mains water, people naturally use more and then the problem arises of how to dispose of the waste water, so the provision of village sewerage schemes has been a very important function of the Council. Each scheme involved a tremendous amount of work. The area in question had to be surveyed and all its varying kinds of sanitation, or non-sanitation recorded. Consulting Engineers usually were called in to plan the sewage works and the line the sewers would take, and then the scheme had to be submitted to the County Council and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval. Approval by the Ministry seemed to depend on the economic state of the Country at the time. If the National Economy was in a good state approval would be given fairly readily, but if one of the recurrent economic blizzards was in progress the Powers in Whitehall would decide that a local Inquiry must be held before one of their Inspectors. The Public Health Department was actively concerned in this and after giving evidence about the number of pail closets and other primitive forms of sanitation in the area we would accompany the Inspector on a tour of inspection pointing out polluted rivers and ditches and other nuisances. Then the Inspector departed and we waited his decision. Sometimes, after a wait of some weeks or even months, we learnt that the scheme had been approved. On other, less happy occasions, we heard, that despite our polluted rivers and ditches, the scheme had been put back for the time being.

However, it is with a feeling of satisfaction that we can record that a large number of our villages now have main drainage.

Housing Inspection is a subject that has always been a most important part of the work of the Public Health Department. Following the War years during which the building of new houses was at a standstill and repairs to existing dwellings difficult to undertake, it was inevitable that many houses fell into a state of serious disrepair. Some of these could not be repaired at reasonable cost and many of the occupiers were living in conditions of extreme discomfort and privation. It was a tremendous task to carry out a detailed inspection of each house and to assess its condition and future, but although a number of houses still await action, the majority of unfit houses have been dealt with and in many cases the occupants have been rehoused. However, the Housing shortage is still a very great problem and young couples, newly married or wishing to marry, have great difficulty in finding anywhere to live. This is despite the fact that this Council has built many houses, as well as bungalows, and sheltered accommodation for old people.

During the past twenty years two diseases have emerged as killers, responsible for an ever increasing number of deaths. These are Coronary disease of the Heart and Cancer of the Lung. Experts tell us that the stress of modern living, too rich a diet, and lack of exercise are responsible for the deaths from this form of heart disease, and there is no doubt that heavy cigarette smoking causes many cases of lung cancer.

The most notable achievement in the control of infectious diseases has been the conquest of Poliomyelitis. Only a few years ago it was an ever threatening menace. One never knew when or where it would strike and when it did so the younger members of society were usually its victims. They were often left with serious disablement or even death. Now, as the result of poliomyelitis vaccination this disease has virtually disappeared.

These are just a few of the thoughts that come to mind when reviewing our activities and progress during the past years.

The time has now come to hand on the torch to our successors, the Department of Environmental Health of the Council of Mid Suffolk. In doing so, we give them our best wishes for the future in the assurance that they will carry on traditions which we have tried to establish and the hope that their forthcoming achievements will be many.

It now only remains for me to express my appreciation to the Councillors for their support and encouragement during the past years, and to thank all officers and members of the staff past and present for their help and cooperation and the staff of the Public Health department for their loyalty, assistance and the enthusiastic way in which they have carried out their many duties during my time of office.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

K.M. HARDING,

Medical Officer of Health.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

|                                           |      |      |      |      |      |      |              |
|-------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------|
| Area                                      | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 78,464 acres |
| Population (Registrar General's Estimate) |      |      |      |      | .... |      | 24,740       |
| Rateable Value                            | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |      | £2,271,628   |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate           | .... | .... |      |      | .... |      | £22,170      |

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES - EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS

### Number of reported cases

|                    |      |      |      |     |
|--------------------|------|------|------|-----|
| Measles            | .... | .... | .... | 207 |
| Infective Jaundice | .... | .... |      | 1   |
| Meningitis         | .... | .... |      | 2   |
| Scarlet Fever      | .... | .... |      | 5   |
| Dysentery          | .... | .... |      | 1   |
| Food Poisoning     | .... | .... |      | 2   |

## TUBERCULOSIS

### (1) New Cases Notified

|                                          |      |   |        |     |
|------------------------------------------|------|---|--------|-----|
| Pulmonary (lungs)                        | Male | 1 | Female | 2   |
| Non-Pulmonary<br>(Glands, bones, joints) | Male | 1 | Female | nil |

### (2) Ages of new cases

|               |      |    |        |        |
|---------------|------|----|--------|--------|
| Pulmonary     | Male | 24 | Female | 7 & 67 |
| Non-Pulmonary | Male | 74 | Female | nil    |

(3) Inward Transfers

Pulmonary Male nil Female nil

Non-Pulmonary Male nil Female nil

(4) Cases crossed off register as recovered during the year

Pulmonary Male 1 Female nil

Non-Pulmonary Male nil Female nil

(5) Died during the year

Pulmonary Male nil Female nil

Non-Pulmonary Male nil Female nil

(6) Outward Transfers

Pulmonary Male nil Female nil

Non-Pulmonary Male nil Female nil

(7) Cases on Register at end of year

Pulmonary Male 5 Female 3

Non-Pulmonary Male 2 Female nil

(8) Statistics for the past six years

|                       | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Primary Notifications | 3    | 1    | 2    | 3    | 2    | 4    |
| Transfers In          | 3    | 2    | -    | -    | -    | -    |

## FOOD POISONING

### (1) Notifications (corrected) returned to the Registrar General

| 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| nil         | nil         | nil         | 2           |

Total cases - 2

### (2) Outbreaks due to identified agents

Total outbreaks - nil Total cases - nil

Outbreaks due to :-

|     |                                 |     |
|-----|---------------------------------|-----|
| (a) | Chemical Poisons                | nil |
| (b) | Salmonella Organisms            | nil |
| (c) | Staphylococci (including toxin) | nil |
| (d) | Cl. Botulinum                   | nil |
| (e) | Other bacteria                  | nil |

### (3) Outbreaks of undiscovered cause

Total outbreaks - nil Total cases - nil

### (4) Single cases

Agent identified - nil  
Agent unknown - 2  
Total cases - 2

## IMMUNISATION (Figures kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health)

Number of persons receiving immunisation in 1973 for:

|                              | <u>Primary</u> | <u>Booster</u> |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis | 319            | 33             |
| Diphtheria/Tetanus           | 7              | 353            |
| Tetanus                      | 16             | 228            |
| Sabin Polio (oral)           | 322            | 475            |
| Measles                      | 269            | -              |
| Rubella (German Measles)     | 127            | -              |

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 Section 47

No action was taken under this Act during 1973.

### WATER SUPPLIES

#### (a) Public Supplies - Bacteriological Examination

Samples from our mains and borewells were as follows:-

Satisfactory - 148      Unsatisfactory - nil

#### (b) Private Supplies - Bacteriological Examination

|                     |                |    |
|---------------------|----------------|----|
| 1. <u>Borewells</u> | Satisfactory   | 15 |
|                     | Unsatisfactory | 2  |
| 2. Deep-wells       | Satisfactory   | -  |
|                     | Unsatisfactory | -  |

### WELL WATER CYANOSIS

|                                 |       |       |   |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|---|
| Number of samples taken in 1973 | ..... | ..... | 3 |
| Number considered safe          | ..... | ..... | 3 |
| Number considered doubtful      | ..... | ..... | - |
| Number considered unsafe        | ..... | ..... | - |

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

51 inspections of food premises were made during the year.

Statistics relating to registration under the Act are:-

Ice Cream - 51      Sausages - 3      Fish Frying - 7

## FOOD HYGIENE (General) REGULATIONS 1960

| <u>Type of Premises</u> | <u>No. of Premises</u> | <u>Type of Premises</u> | <u>No. of Premises</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Bakeries                | 4                      | Food Factories          | 2                      |
| Cafes                   | 8                      | Food Shops              | 88                     |
| Canteens                | 6                      | Hotels                  | 1                      |
| Catering Premises       | 12                     | Public Houses           | 50                     |
| Clubs                   | 4                      |                         |                        |

MEAT INSPECTION

|                                                                                                                | CATTLE<br>EXCLUDING<br>COWS | COWS  | CALVES | SHEEP<br>AND<br>LAMBS | BOARS<br>PIGS<br>SOWS |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Number killed<br>and inspected                                                                                 | 792                         | 91    | 23     | 219                   | 86767                 |
| <u>All diseases except<br/>Tuberculosis and<br/>Cysticercosis</u>                                              |                             |       |        |                       |                       |
| Whole carcasses<br>condemned                                                                                   | 11                          | 5     | 1      | 6                     | 522                   |
| Carcasses of which some<br>part or organ was<br>condemned                                                      | 44                          | 18    | 1      | 6                     | 23720                 |
| Percentage of the<br>number inspected<br>affected with diseases<br>other than tuberculosis<br>or cysticercosis | 6.94                        | 25.27 | 8.69   | 5.48                  | 27.94                 |
| <u>Tuberculosis only</u>                                                                                       |                             |       |        |                       |                       |
| Whole carcasses condemned -                                                                                    | -                           | -     | -      | -                     | -                     |
| Carcasses of which some<br>part or organ was<br>condemned                                                      | -                           | -     | -      | -                     | 806                   |
| Percentage of the number<br>inspected affected with<br>Tuberculosis                                            | -                           | -     | -      | -                     | 93                    |

No cases of Cysticercosis were found during the year.

The method of disposal for condemned meat is collection for rendering down by an approved firm.

The total weight of meat condemned was 84 tons 16 cwts 5 lbs.

### POULTRY INSPECTION

|       |                                                             |            |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| (i)   | Number of poultry processing premises within the district   | 4          |
| (ii)  | Number of visits to poultry processing premises             | 12         |
| (iii) | Total number of birds processed during the year             | 5,602,000  |
| (iv)  | Types of birds processed -                                  |            |
|       | Turkeys                                                     | 5,000      |
|       | Ducks                                                       | nil        |
|       | Hens                                                        | 110,000    |
|       | Broilers                                                    | 5,452,000  |
|       | Capons                                                      | 35,000     |
| (v)   | Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption | 0.5        |
| (vi)  | Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption  | lbs.84,030 |

### BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

By agreement with the East Suffolk County Council, Public Health Officers are responsible for the routine sampling for examination of all milk supplied in this Rural District. In cases where infection is found restraint notices are served.

#### Examination of Milk Supplies

|                          |                   |                          |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Statutory</u>         | 14 samples taken. | All results satisfactory |
| <u>Chemical Analysis</u> | 1 sample taken.   | All results satisfactory |
| <u>Biological</u>        | 12 samples taken. | All results satisfactory |
| <u>Antibiotics</u>       | 12 samples taken. | All results satisfactory |

## HOUSING

### Summary of Housing Activities

|                                                                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of houses inspected                                                            | 153 |
| Number found unsatisfactory                                                           | 153 |
| Number rendered fit by - (a) informal action                                          | 77  |
| (b) action under Public Health Act                                                    | nil |
| (c) action under Housing Act                                                          | 24  |
| Number of Demolition Orders secured                                                   | nil |
| Number of dwellings included in Clearance Areas secured                               | nil |
| Number of dwellings demolished under Clearance Orders                                 | nil |
| Number of dwellings demolished under Demolition Orders                                | 2   |
| Number of dwellings in respect of which Closing Orders were made                      | 1   |
| Housing Act 1969 - Number of Improvement Grants (Discretionary and Standard) approved | 52  |

I am indebted to Mr. M.B. Gowers, Engineer and Surveyor, for the following report:-

#### (a) Council Houses

|                               |      |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Completed                     | 28   |
| Under construction (31.12.73) | 48   |
| Total completed (post war)    | 1132 |

#### (b) Private Houses (Permanent)

|                            |      |
|----------------------------|------|
| Completed                  | 151  |
| Under construction         | 260  |
| Total completed (post war) | 2931 |

#### (c) Private Houses (Temporary)

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Completed                     | nil |
| Under construction (31.12.73) | nil |
| Total completed (post war)    | 27  |

Grand total of Housing units completed in the post-war period to 31st December, 1973, is therefore, 4064.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The position at the end of the year was as follows:-

Schemes completed - Combs and Battisford.

Schemes contemplated - Debenham Extension,  
Ringshall and Great Bricett,  
Somersham Extension, Flowton, Offton and Willisham,  
Great Finborough Extension, Stage III,  
The Stonhams Extension,  
Barking.

## FACTORIES ACT 1961

(1) Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health

| Premises                                                          | Number<br>on<br>Register | Number of   |                    |                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
|                                                                   |                          | Inspections | Written<br>Notices | Occupiers<br>prosecuted |
| (i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced     | 2                        | nil         | nil                | nil                     |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced | 109                      | 2           | nil                | nil                     |
| (iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced               | 7                        | nil         | nil                | nil                     |
| Total                                                             | 118                      | 2           | nil                | nil                     |

(2) Cases in which defects were found.

| Particulars                    | Number of cases in which defects were found |          |                   |                   |                                                  |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|                                | Found                                       | Remedied | Referred          |                   | Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted |
|                                |                                             |          | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector |                                                  |
| Want of cleanliness            | -                                           | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                |
| Overcrowding                   | -                                           | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                |
| Unreasonable temperature       | -                                           | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                |
| Inadequate ventilation         | -                                           | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                |
| Ineffective drainage of floors | -                                           | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                |
| Sanitary Conveniences          |                                             |          |                   |                   |                                                  |
| (a) insufficient               | -                                           | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                |
| (b) unsuitable or defective    | 1                                           | -        | -                 | 1                 | -                                                |
| (c) not separate for sexes     | -                                           | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                |
| Other offences                 | -                                           | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                |
| Total                          | 1                                           | -        | -                 | 1                 | -                                                |

3 outworkers were reported during the year.